

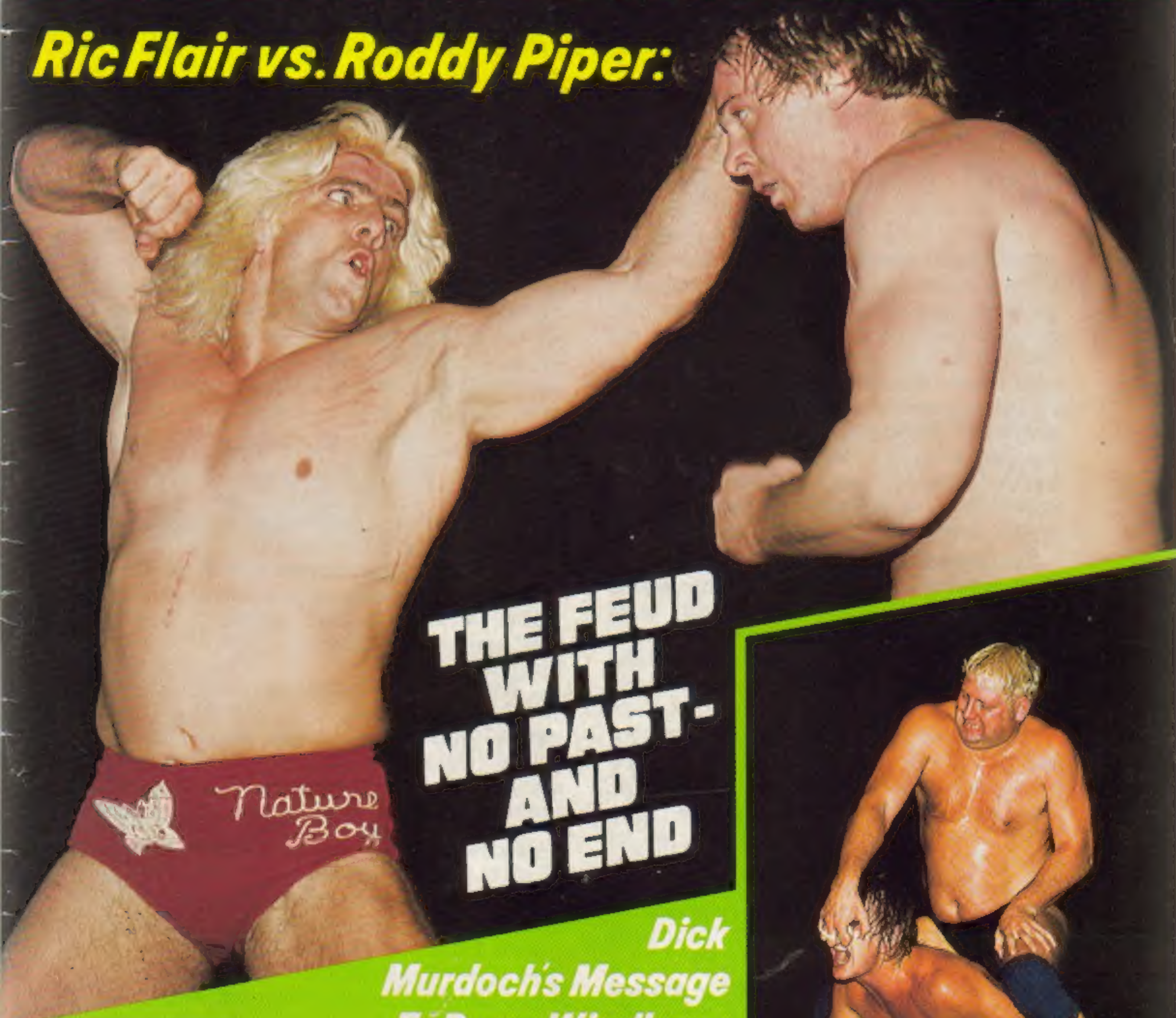


**INTRODUCING
BRUNO SAMMARTINO JR.**

April 1981
47951 \$1.25

THE **Wrestler**

Ric Flair vs. Roddy Piper:



**THE FEUD
WITH
NO PAST-
AND
NO END**

*Dick
Murdoch's Message
To Barry Windham:*
**"DON'T CALL ME
YOUR HERO!"**



OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Champion: BOB BACKLUND

- 1—STAN HANSEN
- 2—KILLER KHAN
- 3—PEDRO MORALES
- 4—HULK HOGAN
- 5—SGT. SLAUGHTER
- 6—LARRY ZBYSZKO
- 7—KEN PATERA
- 8—PAT PATTERSON
- 9—RICK MARTEL
- 10—TONY GAREA

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Champion: VERNE GAGNE

- 1—NICK BOCKWINKEL
- 2—BILLY ROBINSON
- 3—JOHN STUDD
- 4—DINO BRAVO
- 5—CRUSHER BLACKWELL
- 6—TOMMY RICH
- 7—MAD DOG VACHON
- 8—TITO SANTANA
- 9—GREG GAGNE
- 10—JESSE VENTURA

MOST POPULAR

- 1—ANDRE THE GIANT
- 2—BRUNO SAMMARTINO
- 3—DUSTY RHODES
- 4—MIL MASCARAS
- 5—BOB BACKLUND
- 6—RICK STEAMBOAT
- 7—PEDRO MORALES
- 8—WAHOO McDANIEL
- 9—DINO BRAVO
- 10—JUNKYARD DOG



PAT PATTERSON



RICK STEAMBOAT



NICK BOCKWINKEL



DUSTY RHODES

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Champion: HARLEY RACE

- 1—RIC FLAIR
- 2—DUSTY RHODES
- 3—RICK STEAMBOAT
- 4—TONY ATLAS
- 5—DICK SLATER
- 6—MASKED GRAPPLER
- 7—TED DiBIASE
- 8—LES THORNTON
- 9—KEN PATERA
- 10—DAVID VON ERICH

TAG TEAMS

- 1—PAUL JONES & MASKED SUPERSTAR
- 2—TONY GAREA & RICK MARTEL
- 3—JESSE VENTURA & ADRIAN ADONIS
- 4—THE FREEBIRDS
- 5—THE SHEEPHERDERS
- 6—BOBBY JAGGERS & R.T. TYLER
- 7—THE MOONDOGS
- 8—THE SAMOANS
- 9—RAY STEVENS & JIMMY SNUKA
- 10—KILLER BROOKS & GARY YOUNG

MOST HATED

- 1—BARON VON RASCHKE
- 2—LARRY ZBYSZKO
- 3—KILLER KHAN
- 4—GREG VALENTINE
- 5—MASKED GRAPPLER
- 6—KEN PATERA
- 7—EDDY MANSFIELD
- 8—BOBBY JAGGERS
- 9—MICHAEL HAYES
- 10—KILLER BROOKS

CORRESPONDENTS Reports

UTICA, NY—Correspondent: Russell Meyers—In the main event, Pedro Morales, former WWF champion, took on the hated Hangman. The Hangman started cheating early as he attacked Morales before the bell. The Hangman held an early advantage, using power moves like the side headlock. But with the fans behind him, Morales used brilliant scientific maneuvers. At the 25-minute mark, Pedro was whipped to the buckle and The Hangman charged after him. But Pedro was prepared and caught The Hangman in the sunset flip for the win.

In other bouts, Ken Patera cheated his way to victory over

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.

Tony Garea . . . Sgt. Slaughter bested Rick McGraw . . . Dominic DeNucci stopped Johnny Rodz . . . Angelo Gomez and Angel Marvella drew.



After a particularly grueling encounter, Intercontinental champion Pedro Morales turned back the challenge of The Hangman with a sunset flip. Morales predicts a long reign as champion and the fans hope he is correct.

CHICAGO, IL—Correspondent: Mark Gallo—Crusher and Mad Dog Vachon were ready to tackle the challenge of Big John Studd and Jerry "Crusher" Blackwell. In an interview shortly before the match, Vachon vowed he and Crusher would defeat their foes by "chewing at their bones until they can't take it anymore, but it's gonna take a lot of chewing to get at Fatwell's [Blackwell] bones." Fans were anxious to see if Vachon and Crusher would support their boasts. But this



A heartpunch by John Studd helped him and his partner, Jerry Blackwell, defeat Mad Dog Vachon and Crusher.

furious match ended the other way when Studd heartpunched Vachon and Blackwell finished off the stricken wrestler for the win.

In other matches, Bruiser beat Ernie Ladd in a Texas Death Match . . . In a revenge match of uncommon brutality, King Kong Brodie and Spike Huber wrestled to a draw.

DAYTONA BEACH, FL—Correspondent: Nick Boccuzzi—A lot more was on the line than just a match. The very reputations of the four men involved in this tag team bout was at stake. It was a Pier Six brawl throughout as Barry Windham and Manny Fernandez

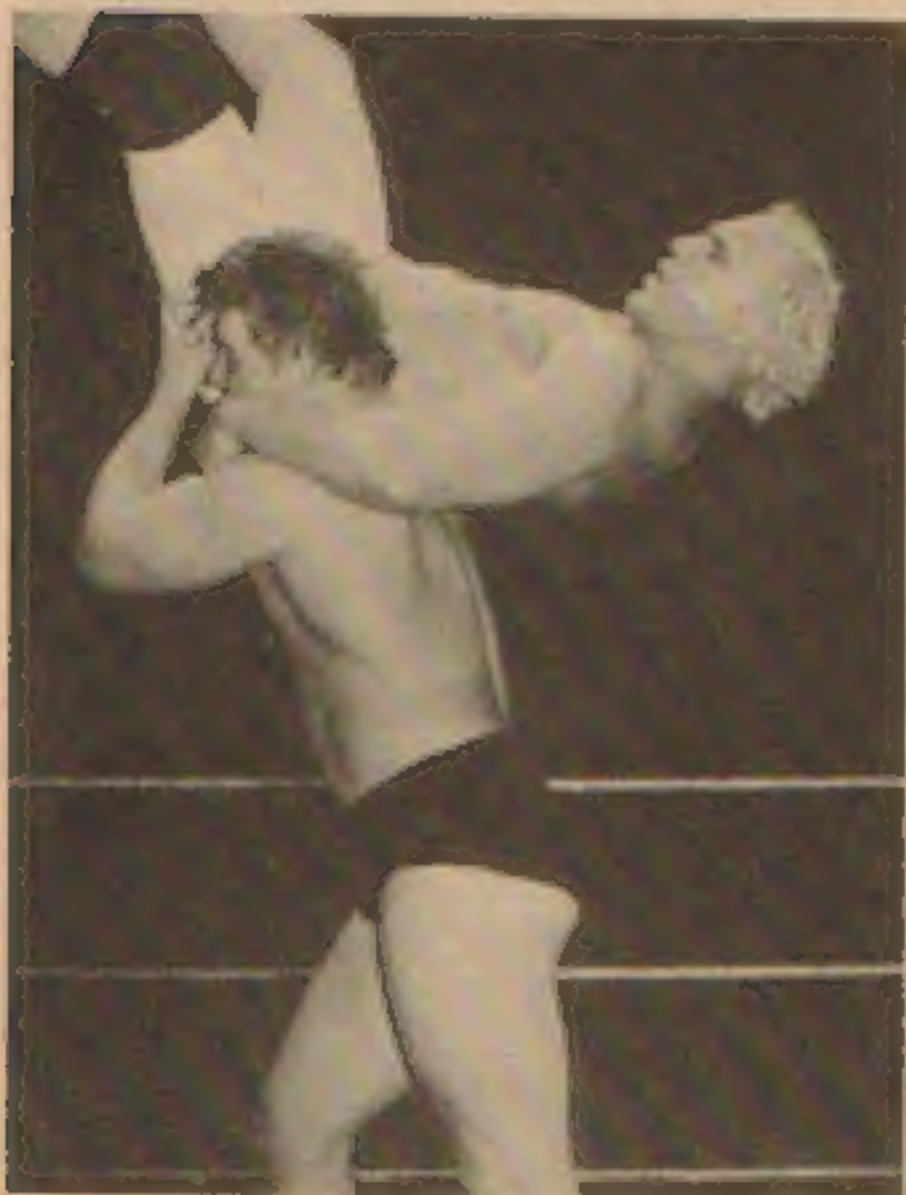
(Continued on page 48)

YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR question! Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, PO BOX 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571. Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion!

Q: When did Bob Backlund win the WWF championship and who did he defeat to win the title?—Jay Ridion, Kennebrunkport, ME

A: Bob Backlund defeated Superstar Billy Graham at New York's Madison Square Garden in February 1978 to win the World Wrestling Federation championship.



Bob Backlund lifts Superstar Graham for the most important atomic spinecrusher of his career—the one that led to his winning the WWF title.



Reader Deanna Thompson wants to know why Michael Hayes takes the least active roles of any of The Freebirds. Hayes has a simple defense for anything the corporation does: The Georgia tag team belts.

Q: Would you please ask the great and good-looking Ox Baker when he is going to return to North Carolina? All his fans are waiting for his triumphant return—Debbie Burbage, Durham, NC

A: At present, Ox Baker is wrestling in the Los Angeles area. Most recently, Baker wrestled in Texas. According

to Baker, he isn't certain when he will come back to North Carolina, but extends his heartiest wishes to all his loyal fans.

Q: Why is it everytime The Fabulous Freebirds wrestle in a tag team match, Michael Hayes hardly ever wrestles? Is Hayes chicken or something?—Deanna Thomson, Fort Nelson, BC, Canada

A: We decided to let Hayes answer this question. "Chicken? Me, the great and wonderful Michael Hayes, the man with infinite wisdom, infinite courage, infinite skill, chicken? If you want to know about chickens, look at the cock-a-doodle-does like Mr.

Wrestling II who don't have the guts to meet us. As for your ignorant remark concerning how much I wrestle, The Fabulous Freebirds, Inc., do not wrestle according to conventional rules, which is why we are so great. Everything we do is plotted and planned down to the simplest

(Continued on page 50)

WHAT'S HAPPENING

By BILL APTER

HULK HOGAN IS fuming at manager Fred Blassie! Although the gigantic Hogan has shown no signs of bitterness publicly, insiders report that the Hulk cannot deal with the fact that Stan Hansen, another Blassie protege, is getting a WWF title shot before he!

If you look at the record, Hogan has been in the employ of Blassie over a year. Hansen, although under Blassie's management several years ago, has just recently arrived in the WWF. When asked about the situation, Blassie turned red and the veins in his head popped. "Look," he shouted, "you pencil-neck reporters had better mind your own business. You are always trying to cause trouble between me and my men. What I do is my own damn business. Keep your nose out of it!"

The fireworks have started. Hussein Arab and Ivan Koloff have now had one very bloody brawl, and the feud shows no signs of ending . . . Dory Funk Jr. says that the NWA title is "in my pocket." Funk, currently the Florida champion, feels that his next confrontation against Harley Race, will be Race's final title defense . . . By the way, have you



A sullen Hulk Hogan contemplates his future as a professional wrestler. At this point, after wrestling in the WWF area for over a year, he has to consider the possibility that he will never get a title match with Bob Backlund.

noticed that Dusty Rhodes is still keeping a very low profile in the NWA title picture? He still refuses to wrestle for the title as long as Race holds the belt.

In one of the finest scientific wrestling matches seen in New

York in some time, WWF Jr. Heavyweight champion Tatsumi Fujinami successfully defended his belt against Don Diamond, who made his Madison Square Garden debut. "It was my toughest title test

(Continued on page 62)

Q&A

Each month, **THE WRESTLER** will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost on the fans' minds



Wherever Ivan Putski travels, he receives the full love and support of the fans. He truly enjoyed his stay in Texas, but he was absolutely thrilled to be back in the WWF. Above: Putski drives Larry Zbyszko's head into the canvas.

Q: Ivan, how does it feel to be back in the WWF?

A: Oh, terrific, just great.

Q: Why does it feel so great?

A: Oh, because I missed my wonderful fans here. I want everyone to know how kind and nice all the people down in Texas were to me. They're really great people, really knowledgeable about pro wrestling. They invited me into their homes for dinner. All you hear about Texas hospitality is true.

Q: How would you compare Texas and WWF fans?

A: Well, I don't know that you could compare them. They are two different kinds of fans. Texas fans tend to be more emotionally enthusiastic, you know, they show their emotions a bit more. Either they like you or they don't. On the other hand, WWF fans are a bit more analytical. They know all the holds, know what I mean? But both groups are great.

Q: Now down in Texas, you found yourself involved in feuds with a pair of real tough guys. What about your wars with Tully Blanchard and Eddy Mansfield?

A: I have to say both Mans-



IVAN PUTSKI

AFTER LEAVING THE WWF, Ivan Putski brought his thrilling "Polish Power" into Texas. Though Putski wrestled a wide variety of evil Texas rulebreakers, his two major enemies proved to be Eddy Mansfield, the arrogant "Continental Lover," and Tully Blanchard, reigning Southwest heavyweight champion.

Putski's immense charm and talent proved as contagious to fans in Texas as it has in other parts of the world. Now Putski returns to the WWF, site of his greatest moments.

field and Blanchard are arrogant loud-mouths. If they had a fraction of the talent they claim to have, they'd be unbeatable. But guys like that are more concerned with shooting off their mouths outside the ring and running around inside the ring. They're

really not good wrestlers, more like thugs, know what I mean?

Q: Not exactly.

A: Okay, okay, they are real cheats. Really sleazy guys who'll do anything to win and all they care about is the big bucks. They don't give a whit for the traditions

of wrestling. They could care less about the rules and they could care less about the fans. Even if they were good, which they're not, I couldn't respect them, no, I really couldn't.

Q: But you're used to feuds.
(Continued on page 52)



Fans greet Putski's return with loving placards (above left). Putski leaves the WWF on occasion, but always returns when he feels that the rulebreakers are gaining too much of an advantage. Putski has battled Stan Hansen before (above right) and may soon again.

PEDRO MORALES WINS THE INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE!

It has been a long time between championships for Pedro Morales. As WWF champion, Morales was a beloved figure. Then he left the area for a while. Upon his return, Morales became embroiled in a bitter feud with then Intercontinental champion Ken Patera. Now Pedro has his sweet revenge—he is the new champion!

PHOTOS BY STU SAKS

PEDRO MORALES IS the new Intercontinental champion. You would think the former WWF champion would be joyful after his hard-fought triumph over Ken Patera at Madison Square Garden. Not so.

Oh, Pedro is surely happy. But a disgusting example of Ken Patera's warped mind tarnished Pedro's triumph.

After Morales whipped Patera, the now ex-champion assaulted special referee Pat Patterson with punches and kicks and finally placed him in a swinging neck-breaker.

"Incredible," said Morales.

For several months, Patera and Morales have had one of the area's most violent feuds. Patera repeatedly insulted Morales. Usually able to control his temper, Morales finally exploded and, unfortunately, became embroiled in a truly fiery feud.

Morales had predicted he would take Patera's belt. Finally he managed the difficult feat. But at what price?

"No, I feel very bad, you know, very bad, indeed," Morales said. "Yes, I feel bad what happened to my good friend Mr. Pat Patterson. There was no reason for Patera to do that, no, it was very wrong and I am very angry.

"Yes, you know, Patera made a very big mistake because now he has two sworn enemies, me and Pat."

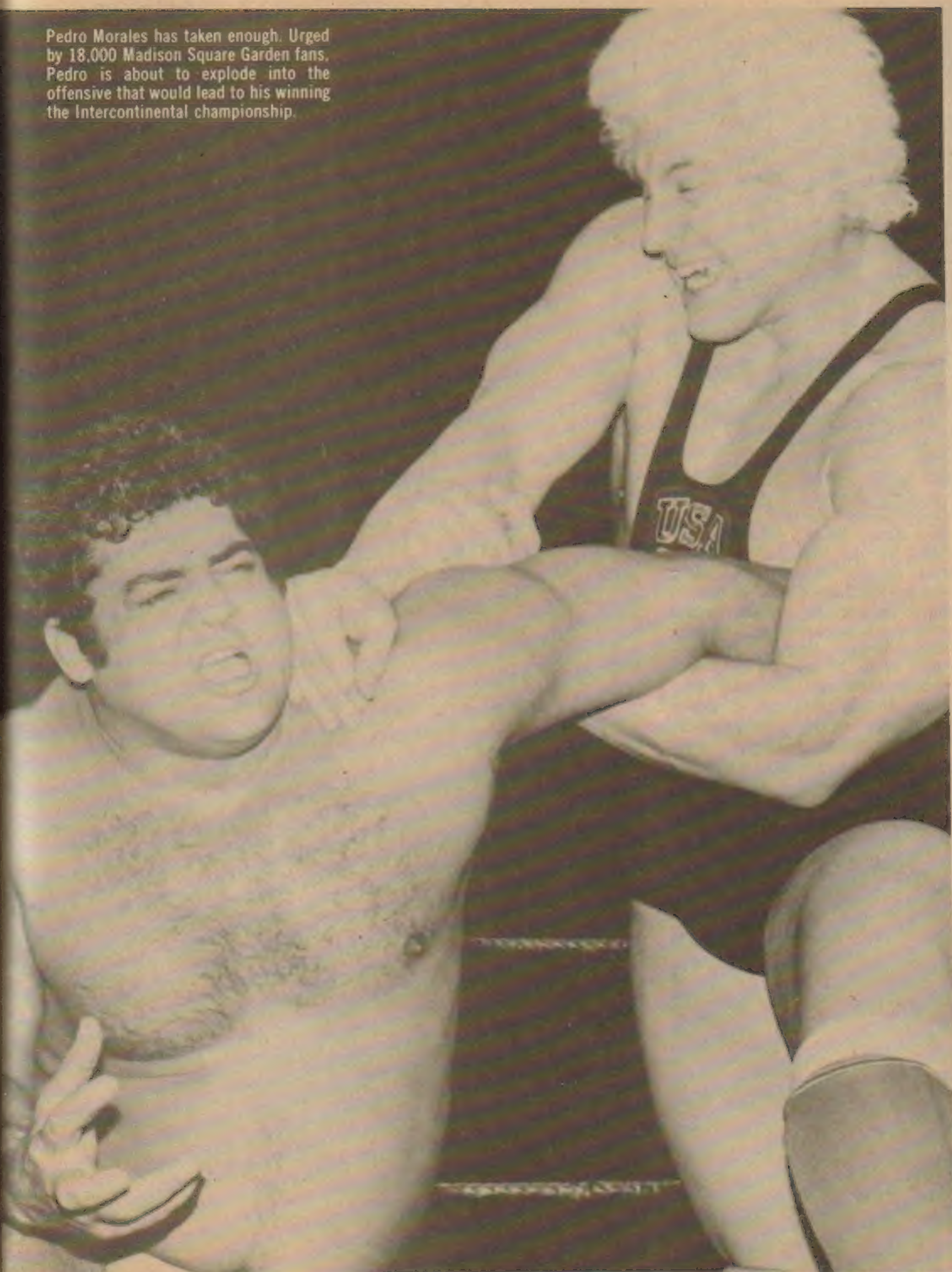
Patterson acted as a special guest referee. The selection of Patterson initially infuriated Patera, who contended that Pat couldn't possibly act impartially.

"Everyone knows that lout Patterson has it in for me. That bum is so jealous of me, he can't think of the great Ken Patera without puffing up with jealousy.

"I should've known that clown Morales and Patterson would pull a stunt like that, arranging to cheat me out of my belt. Yeah, that's right, cheat me out of my belt," Patera snarled.

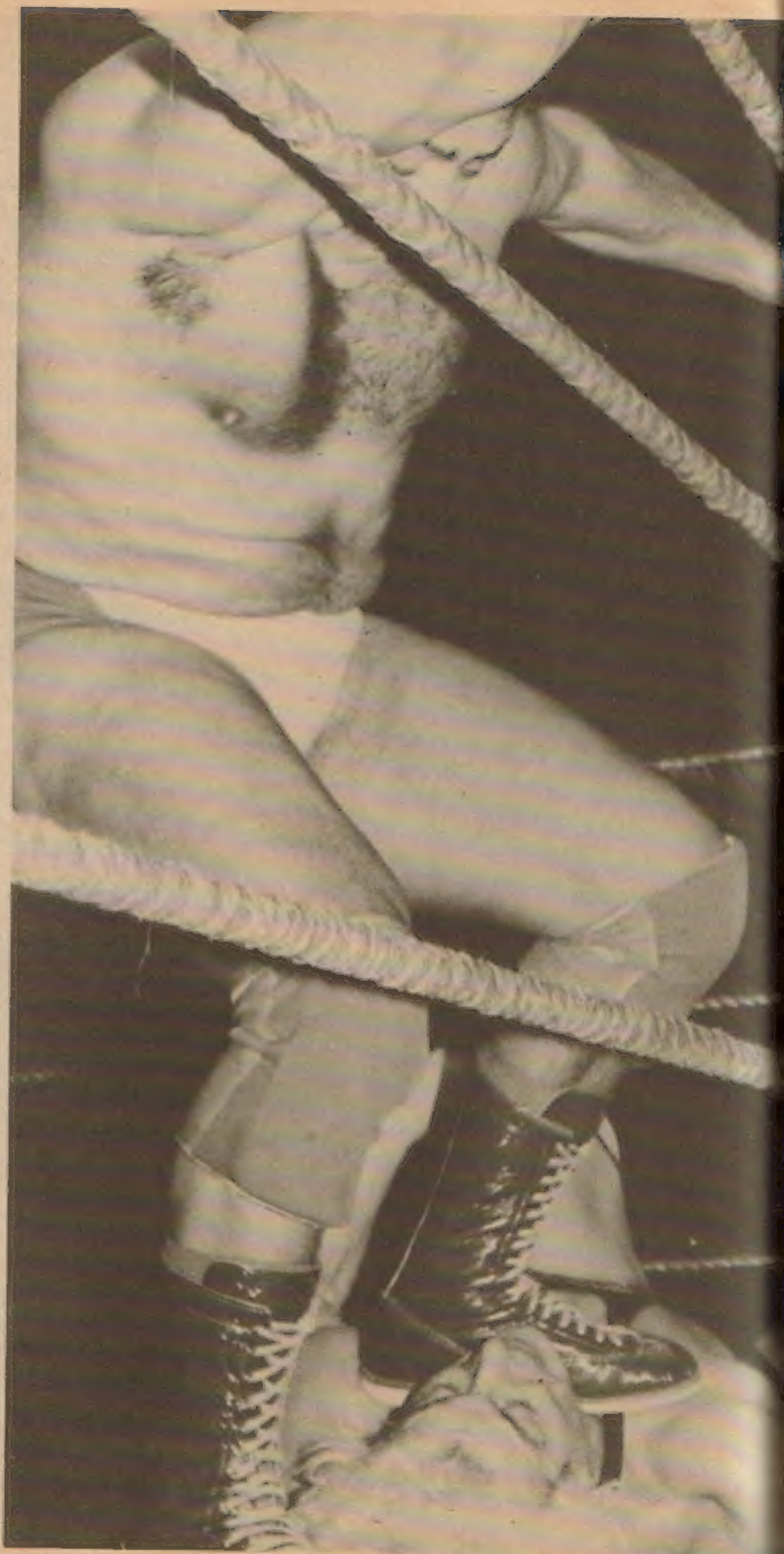
"Anyone with more than the intelligence of an antelope, which removes almost every wrestling fan

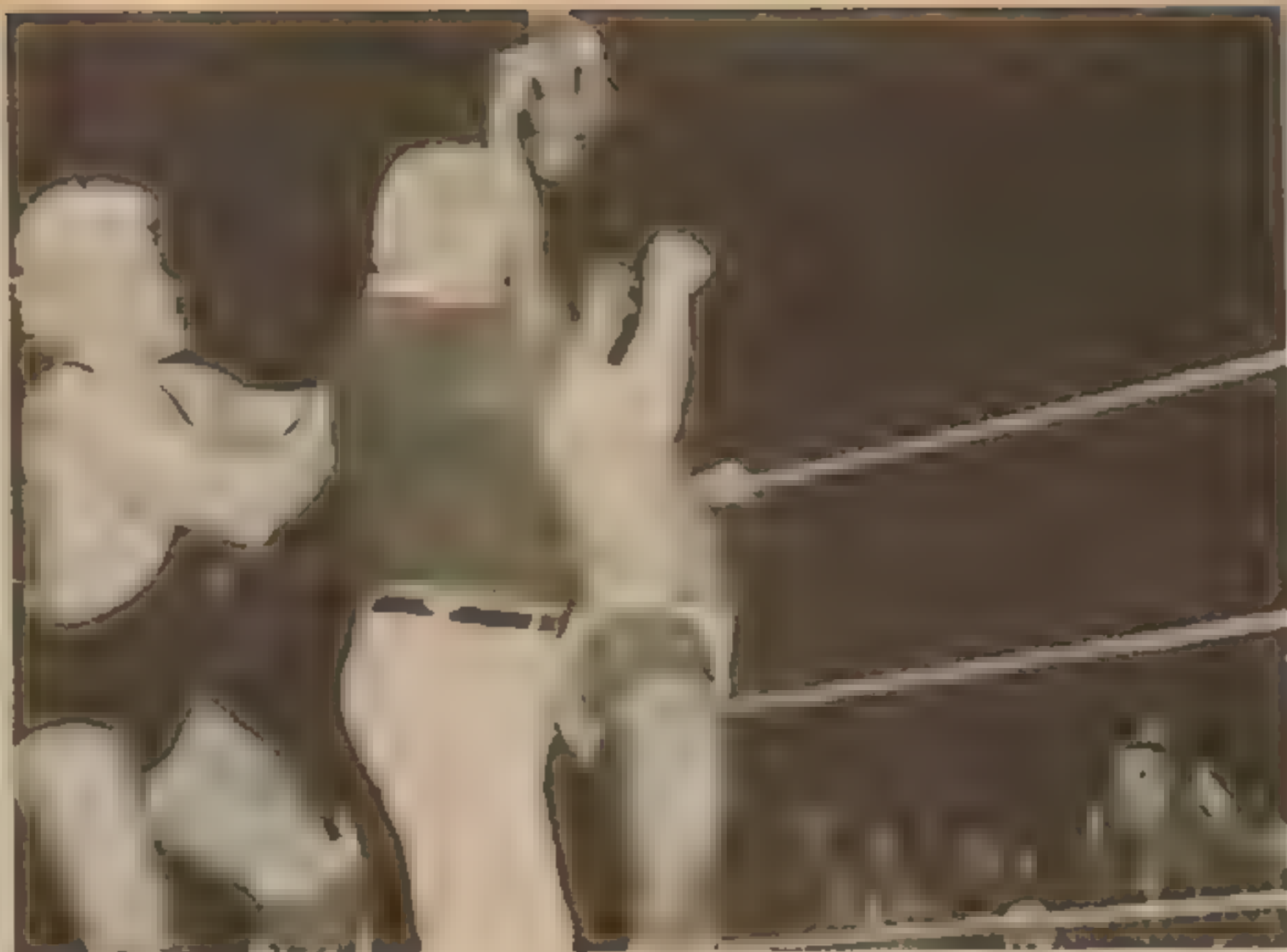
Pedro Morales has taken enough. Urged by 18,000 Madison Square Garden fans, Pedro is about to explode into the offensive that would lead to his winning the Intercontinental championship.





After tossing Morales out of the ring, Patera will not allow his challenger's return (above). The powerful champion tries to yank Morales' shoulder from its socket (below). An angered Morales resorts to illegal choking tactics (right). Ringside fans warn Morales of a charging Patera as he displays his newly won Intercontinental belt (far right). After hitting Morales from behind, Patera turned his attention to special referee Pat Patterson.





in the world, could see my feet were under the ropes when Morales illegally pinned me. But do you think Patterson, that senile dog, saw me? No, he turned away because Morales paid him enough money to sink a boat

"Why do you think Morales couldn't win the belt before? Isn't anyone suspicious, or are all of you so damn gullible and ignorant you can't see what happened? Obviously, Morales and the ruling clique of the WWF, the Sammartino-Skoaland-Backlund gang, arranged to cheat me out of a belt I won fair and square from that ignorant fool Patterson.

"Remember how that whining bum screamed and ranted and raved and cried when I beat him? Remember how he vowed to regain the belt no matter what he had to do? Well, hasn't that prediction come true? Didn't he get the belt back?"

Patera was reminded that Patterson didn't win the belt. Morales did

"Come on, Morales is simply fronting for the clique. Morales is such a clown, he couldn't wrestle his way out of the closet, much less beat the great Ken Patera - unless he had found some foolproof way to cheat.

"You don't think in a fair fight Morales could beat me, do you? I gave that creep enough opportunities to win the title and he came up short on each occasion. He can't wrestle; never could and he never will.

"He needed help from that clown Patterson to beat me. Hell, I wouldn't even call it beating me. No man alive has ever beat me. In fair fights, I am undefeated. But when you wrestle the kind of vermin around here, you don't get many fair fights. Men like Pedro, who can't wrestle, have to cheat. It's that simple."

Patterson seethes over charges he refereed unfairly.

"I was a good referee, a very good referee," he said. "I pushed aside all emotions and concentrated on refereeing a very good match. But I don't like it when people say things like that about me. And then Patera attacks me after the bell. He will be very, very sorry for that. Very sorry."

Perhaps the most confused person of all is Pedro Morales.

"You know, I always ready for any kinda action, but I not ready for that kinda action. That Patera has now dropped dirt on my belt with all this. I must clean the dirt off my belt. I must destroy him."

FOR SALE: ERNIE LADD'S TAG TEAM BELT



PHOTOS BY STU SAKS

Nothing can be as crass and cruel as a man offering to sell his title. Yet Ernie Ladd, co-holder of the Louisiana Tag Team title with Leroy Brown, is doing precisely that. But Ladd's auction isn't cheap. He has set a floor bid of \$1 million. So far, there are no takers

A GOLD-AND-BROWN Indian rug hung from the wall. On either side of the elevated platform stood medal stands supporting bronze busts of the current co-holder of the Louisiana tag team title. At the edge-of the platform, tilted backward to augment the already considerable height of the glaring figure, rested a green-felt podium. Upon the platform lay a gavel. Next to the gavel lay a golden cup.

Ernie Ladd grinned and caressed the cup, his eyes twinkling in greedy anticipation. Suddenly a glower seized his handsomely regal features and commanded his long fingers to grab the gavel and pound the felt for attention.

All eyes throughout the lush private dining room focused upon Ladd. At considerable personal expense, Ladd rented this room for the day. It cost a great deal, but, if all things went well for Mr. Ladd,



Ernie Ladd has apparently grown bored with his share of the Louisiana state tag team championship (left) Leroy Brown (above with Ladd before a defense) has warned Ernie about the consequences of selling his belt. Bill Watts picks off a Ladd right and prepares to throw one of his own (below)



the cost would seem quite inconsequential.

Select invitations had been hand-delivered by messenger to a number of nationally prominent wrestlers. Indicative of Ladd's arrogance was the terse press

release handed to journalists grouped at the rear of the room.

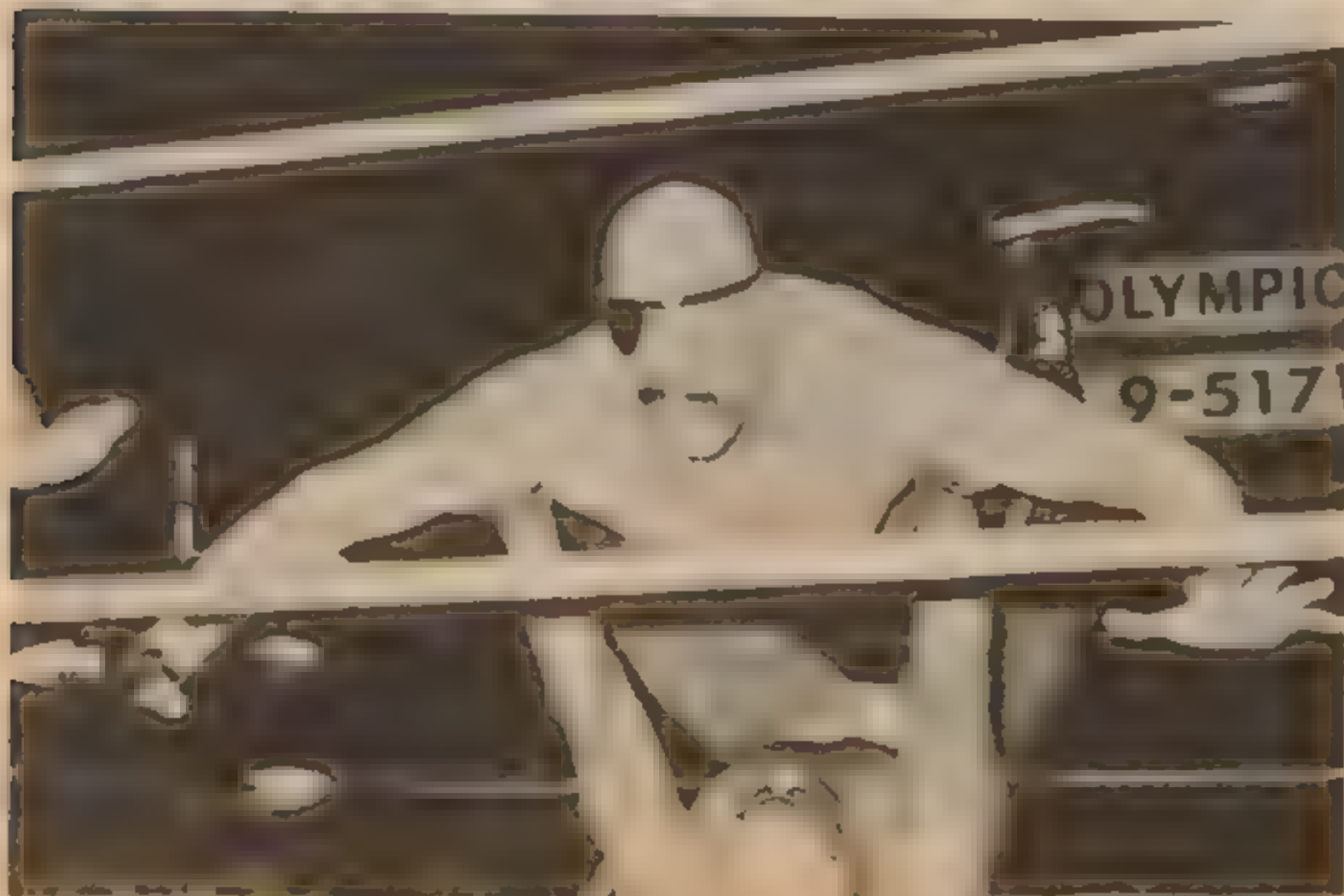
"I, Ernie Ladd, King of Wrestling, Ruler of the Human Race, Beloved Figure and Immortal, do hereby grant an

(Continued on page 54)

It isn't easy being the younger brother of a great star. That is the albatross Dos Caras has been forced to carry into the ring throughout his wrestling career. As much as he loves and adores brother Mil Mascaras, Dos Caras wanted respect in his own right. After this match against The Enforcer, Dos Caras can be respected as an individual

PHOTOS BY
THEO EHRET

DOS CARAS: EMERGING FROM MIL MASCARAS' SHADOW



AS RECENTLY AS one year ago, Dos Caras would enter a ring. As he walked down the aisle, he could hear the whispers, innocent words which, when dropped, contorted his handsome face into a cringe behind the mask.

"Isn't that Mil Mascaras' brother . . . That's the kid brother, right? . . . What's his name, his brother's the famous Mascaras, huh?"

So Dos would prepare for a match, always burdened by the weight of a famous brother, pinioned between the conflicting emotions of brotherly love and, yes, brotherly rivalry.

"I love Mil," Dos says. "He's



been very good to me. We both share in each other's triumphs. When Mil wins, it is like me winning. And when I win, Mil is as happy for me as I am.

"But always I am Mil's brother. Yes, it sometimes makes me sad. It is not his fault. I think Mil is sometimes happier over my success than I am. He wants only the best for me. But it is very difficult to always be someone's brother, instead of yourself."

In the past year, Dos worked long and hard. He spent countless hours in the gymnasium. He practiced maneuvers and worked himself into peak physical condition. Nothing would interfere with his goal of stardom. Not even the inevitable comparisons.

Slowly but rarely, Dos started carving out his own reputation. Slowly but surely, Dos started gaining fame as his own man, for his own maneuvers, his own style, his own dignity.

"I had to set down exactly what it took to become my own man. First of all, I had to confront the

His build, his style, and his temperament are all reminiscent of Mil Mascaras. Though he idolizes his brother, Dos Caras felt an obligation to himself to establish his own identity. His brilliant showing against The Enforcer will have to help.



(Continued on page 34)

Ric Flair vs. Roddy Piper:



THE FEUD WITH NO PAST- AND NO END



They genuinely hate each other. This isn't a feud built upon revenge. This is a hate which flows from the deep and distinct differences between Roddy Piper and Ric Flair. Neither can abide the thought of the other in the Mid-Atlantic area. Thus, they have pledged themselves to a war that might well destroy one or both of them

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER





The feud between Ric Flair and Roddy Piper has been fueled by Ric's lack of respect for Roddy's Scottish heritage. Opposite bottom, Ric mocks Piper by coming into the ring with bagpipes, but he will not go as far as to wear a kilt.

THE SOUND OF Roddy Piper's sarcastic laughter can split wood. There is very little that Piper, in all his immense arrogance, doesn't find beneath his self-proclaimed station in life. As someone who believes himself to be handsome, talented, etc., etc., Piper takes great joy in insulting other people and denigrating their skills and achievements.

Ric Flair is no exception. From the moment Piper entered the Mid-Atlantic area from the Pacific Northwest, he has insulted Flair. A few of the Piper remarks:

"Ric Flair's head looks like mashed potatoes."

"Ric Flair is so ugly he could scare back a tidal wave."

"I've known ant hills smarter than Ric Flair."

"Ric Flair couldn't figure out which end of a bagpipe to blow."

"Ric Flair's the only guy I know who needs a map to get out of a phone booth."

Okay, so Piper isn't ready to guest host the "Jeopardy! Carson Show." But the impact of his words, their derision, their vile taunting quality, has slowly eaten away at Flair's guts. Certainly not a calm man anyway, Flair now goes wild at the mere mention of Piper's name.

Just the other night in Richmond, some brave/foolish reporter off-handedly mentioned Piper's name. For the next five minutes Flair stalked his dressing room, overturning chairs, breaking glasses, and mumbling like a wildman.

Flair was so enraged, he couldn't even spit out any articulation, merely a primitive signal of grunts, grumbles, and a few unmentionables.

Apparently Flair was simply waiting for the proper moment to unleash his counter-attack. As has been his custom since he first broke into wrestling, Flair delivered a two-pronged assault.

First the verbal onslaught.

"Piper? Roddy Piper? You call that guy a wrestler?" Flair's handsome face curled in a disdainful sneer. "I don't like any wrestler who wears a skirt, how's that. Any guy who has to wear a skirt isn't a wrestler. I don't know what that makes him, but he surely isn't a wrestler. Maybe back in whatever country they threw him out of he was considered a man. But in this here good ol' USA, we don't care for weirdos who come into the ring wearing skirts."

Exactly as Flair apparently planned, Piper grew incensed at Flair's remarks.

"That ignorant little twit," he shouted. "How dare he insult my heritage. A good Scotsman can handle 25 Ric Flairs with both hands tied behind his back. Flair speaks out of the great ignorance

(Continued on page 64)

Mr. Wrestling II Returns!

HOW YOU THE FANS BROUGHT HIM BACK

He hated to leave. But Mr. Wrestling II felt it was about time to hang up the laced boots and try civilian life for a change. But a fierce competitor like II couldn't stay away for long. Especially not after the tidal wave of loving pleas from fans begging, and eventually persuading, II to return

Mr. Wrestling II is greeted by his fans as he makes his return to wrestling in a grudge match against Mr. Saito.





Mr. Wrestling II works Saito to the mat from the referee's position (above). In a peculiar way, the fans owe a great debt to the Japanese rulebreaker. Blood stains II's mask after Saito attacked II when the popular masked man attended the matches as a ringside spectator (below). That incident, but more so the outpouring of love from his fans, brought II out of retirement.

IF PRIDE, RESTLESSNESS, and uncompleted ambitions were the logs rumbling within Mr. Wrestling II's soul, then the avalanche of letters from fans were the torch which ignited the masked man's return into the squared circle.

"Just look at all these letters," II gestured about the envelopes obliterating the floor. "All my fans writing into your magazine begging me to come back out of retirement. How could I possibly refuse them?"

II tugged at the edge of his mask, obviously moved by the outpouring of love and devotion from all corners of the world. Simply for this occasion, II took time off his busy schedule to travel to our New York offices for this story. He wanted to read some of the thousands of letters.

"I'd like, if you would be so kind, for your grand magazine to print some of these letters. I think these wonderful fans deserve as much," said II.

"Please don't retire. I love you too much," wrote Debbie List of Dover, New Jersey. "You are the only really good thing in wrestling. Seeing [wrestling] without you is terrible. The fans don't want to see you leave,



especially me."

"I have always respected you as one of the all-time greats," said Bobby Taylor Jr., Miller, Georgia. "You have always come to the aid of professional wrestling when you were needed. There aren't enough words to describe the way the fans of wrestling feel about you."

"In a sport where decency,

loyalty, and honor are often hard to find, the name of Mr. Wrestling II is always to be found at the top of these three categories," wrote John McLean, Poughkeepsie, New York. "It is better to lose and keep one's honor than to stoop to the level of a Harley Race, Ken Patera, or other lower forms of life who rely on cheating and sneak-attack

methods to win."

"Please don't quit. I love you too much . . . I can just think what it will be like if I turn on the TV and you're not on. It would be horrible," wrote Sunny Holman, Waynesboro, Georgia

He ducks under a charging Mr. Saito, sending him in flight across the ring. If it hadn't been for the fans' letters, He might never have suited up for battle again. He thanks the fans for bringing him back as much as they thank him for coming back

"Please don't quit! We need men like you to rid Georgia and other areas of rulebreakers. You are needed. You just can't quit," read the letter of Mike Borger, Paducah, Kentucky

"Please, don't quit on us now. We like you, Mr. Wrestling II. If you quit there will be no hope for the good guys to beat the bad guys. I know you were upset when you did not beat Harley Race for the NWA title. But you can beat Harley Race

and I know it. You are the greatest man in the sport," said Mitch Otrich, New Albany, Indiana.

"He, I hear you are thinking of retiring. I think you shouldn't retire just because of that bum Race. Don't let your fans down," wrote Jose Collazo, Miami, Florida. "The only reason Race beat you is because he cheats."

"Mr. Wrestling II, you are one fine man. Can I ask you one thing? Don't quit wrestling,"



pleaded Carroll Saunders, Caribou, Maine.

Il sighed, visibly moved.

"How could I ignore all this?" Il's eyes swept the room. "These are my people talking. These are the most important people in all of wrestling. I, I just couldn't say no to them. I can't turn my back on my friends. These people care about me. They want only the best for me. They want me to come back.

"Yes, I considered fan reaction when I announced my retirement. I knew it would hurt them, and I'm not saying that out of any arrogance, just that I recognize the affection between me and the wrestling fans.

"But I'll be really honest with you, I didn't think there'd be quite such a response to my retirement. I knew I was cared for, but I didn't realize how deep and widespread this love was for me. It makes me really happy, really proud. You can take all those titles and hang them on the mantle.

"After a while those trophies will grow dusty and get tinny looking. But the love of a fan never changes. If anything, it grows stronger and stronger every day. You can't imagine how it feels to make a little child smile. You can't imagine how touched I am by all this love. You really can't, words just fail me, that's all, there's no way to explain how I feel.

"Even though my words are quite inadequate, I want to express my deepest thanks to the fans. And I want all of them to know," Il's voice faltered, "I want all of them to know I love them, too."

The husky masked man bent his head, turned away to wipe off the tears streaming down his masked cheeks, and walked out of the door, confident the fans of wrestling walked with him wherever he went. □



The referee positions himself to determine whether Saito's hold is a sleeper or choke (above). The hold was legal, but Il managed to escape before falling into unconsciousness (below). When asked if he plans to go back into retirement, Il said simply, "What's retirement?"





BUGSY MCGRAW'S ENDLESS SEARCH FOR TRUST

PHOTOS BY
JIM CALDWELL



ALL HIS LIFE, Buggy McGraw has encountered mistrust.

"I remember when I was young, so much younger than today. I believe I was nine or 14, I'm not sure, but it was one of those ages. Or was it my address? Does it matter? Does the Infinite Master of the Universe care where I lived? No, and neither do I," McGraw stormed away, muttered to himself and returned to the chair.

"I was playing with some friends of mine. They had names, not that I ever learned them. It seemed so unimportant, names. What's in a name, anyway? Letters strung together, sounds, vowels, screams. I don't like names, though mine is fine. As I was saying before you interrupted me," McGraw glared at the silent guest. "We were playing some children's game with rocks and rope. The principle was very simple. You tied a rock at the end of the rope and tried to knock bird's nests out of trees. I was a master of this game.

"All the children with names came by my house because I had a lot of trees. At one time I was nicknamed Johnny Appleseed, did I tell you that? But none of the other children could knock the nests out of the trees. Only me. After a while they started gossiping about me. They said I glued the nests to the branches, as if I had the power, at that time, to commune with other lifeforms.

"Even though I spoke my innocence, none believed me. No one trusted me. No one loved me. Even as an adult, no one would trust me."

Buggy stormed away, pounded his fist into the concrete wall and returned with a smile.



Buggy McGraw spent the better part of his life as a mistrusted outcast. After he gained the trust of the fans in Florida, he made the mistake of thinking that trust would be universal. Even against a man like Mark Lewin, the Texas fans are against him.

"Then I broke into professional wrestling. Still, no one wanted to trust me. That hurt me. That cut me to little shreds. I am a nice man. All I want to do is be nice to people, feed animals, say hello, kiss babies, be loved. But no one wanted me."

At this point, McGraw broke down into uncontrollable sobs, his wails reverberating about the room

for nearly five full minutes. Finally he regained his poise.

"Then I went to Florida. I saw the light. I finally understood what being an American means. I understood how evil men like Koloff and Volkoff and Super Destroyer can be. I wanted to do something for my nation, to give

(Continued on page 58)

Poor Buggy McGraw. Here's a man who has worked quite hard to find love in Florida. When he first announced his dedication to the American flag and driving the Russians out of Florida, fans flocked to his side. Buggy thought he would carry this sort of love into other areas. He was wrong. And the disappointment might ruin him

Dick Murdoch's Message To Barry Windham:

PHOTOS BY
PAUL BAUMAN

**"DON'T
CALL
ME
YOUR
HERO!"**

Dick Murdoch is an unassuming sort of guy.

Even throughout his shocking pledge to wrestle anyone for money, his essential character hasn't changed. But Barry Windham, who once idolized Murdoch, is crushed. And Murdoch has vowed to wipe any lingering hero-worship from Windham's body

Murdoch puts a message in Windham's ear and
punches it into his ear with his refereed
opponent's ear.





Young Windham rings his senior opponent's head (left) and straightens him with an uppercut to the side of the head (below). Windham showed obvious resentment toward his fallen idol.



BARRY WINDHAM RECALLS his early idolization of Dick Murdoch with wounded puzzlement.

"I tell you something," Windham said. "I thought the world of Dick Murdoch. I always thought he was the perfect combination of toughness and grace. He knew exactly what he had to do to win. He knew what it took, both preparing himself physically and mentally, and how far he had to go without losing the respect of the fans.

"I really idolized him, really I did. I thought he was terrific. I'll never forget the first time I saw him wrestle with Rhodes back when they were The Outlaws. If anything totally convinced me I had to be a professional wrestler, it was watching Dick Murdoch.

"Now, I don't know . . ." Windham's voice trailed off on a cloud of disbelief.

Windham isn't alone in his shock. All wrestling ponders the greedy, amoral attitude of Murdoch. Ever since accepting Lord Al Hays' blank checks to wrestle any opponent, friend or foe, Murdoch has been driven from the scientific wrestling community in Florida.

But Murdoch could care less. If anything, he gloats over his estrangement, as if such hate confirms his own lonely crusade. As for Windham, Murdoch is delighted the youngster's image of Murdoch the Idol has fallen into disrepute. And Murdoch will do anything to make sure Windham's idolization stays shattered.

"I don't want that punk idolizin' me," growled Murdoch. "I got two very good reasons, one for the welfare of the punk, the other for my welfare."

Murdoch paused and twisted his meaty hands together.

"Any punk who idolizes or worships a wrestler, even if he is deservin' like me, is a first-class, absolute fool. When you try and idolize someone, you always don't look at the real situation. You don't want your idol to be anything less than perfect, so you take his good qualities, of which I have many, and build them up so the guy is a god or somethin'.

"Then, the first time the guy steps outta line, you're crushed. Well, you can't live in a kinda fantasy world, it just ain't healthy. No one deserves to be idolized 'cause you ain't idolizin' a real thing.

"Only reason why someone would idolize another person like that is they feel kinda inadequate. By idolizin' someone else, they kinda borrow from that guy and it makes them feel a bit more sure and all.



Murdoch applies pressure to Windham's neck, but the maneuver is deemed legal since he is not covering the windpipe (above). Barry cleverly uses Murdoch's weight to his own advantage (right). Murdoch catches Windham flush on the chin with a powerful elbowsmash (below).

"And that just ain't healthy, not at all. Sooner or later you're gonna get crushed. You try and live in this mean, tough real world with your fantasies and you'll get squashed like an ant.

"As for how it affects me, first off, I don't want no punk kids slobberin' and cryin' all over me 'cause they think I'm wonderful based on their perverted little minds. I should be accepted as bein' wonderful on my own terms, not someone else's.

"Now look at how Windham is all bent outta shape 'cause he thinks I'm a terrible guy suddenly. What a punk like that does to me is kinda throw around even more of a false image of Dick Murdoch. I never

told anyone to like me. That was his own decision. And now that he thinks I ain't come up to his own stupid, precious standards, he makes me out to be even worse than the fools and airheads in this state already think I am.

"So what I gotta do is teach the punk all about reality. I'm really kinda doin' this for the punk's own good. And, of course, mine. And it don't hurt me one little bit that there's a big fat check waitin' for me at the end of this match.

"If Windham ever wants to



take his little skills and build them into somethin' worthwhile, he better understand what is important and what ain't important in wrestlin'. All that matters is the big bucks. Nothin' ever matters to me except the bucks. Once Windham learns that, maybe he won't be such a little, snivelin' punk."

After the brutal match, Windham sat sadly before his lock. He kept shaking his head, for a moment unable to speak. Finally, his scratchy voice eeked out a few words of remorse.

"I used to think a lot of Murdoch," he said softly. "Now I realize he's no better than the rest. And that's really too bad." □

INTRODUCING BRUNO SAMMARTINO JR.

PHOTOS BY
BILL APTER

NO ONE HAS to tell Bruno Sammartino Jr. about the risks he's taking. He's known them all his life. Though he's hurling himself in the face of disaster, it's the only possible way he can realize his dream.

"I know the stories," Bruno Jr. says quietly. "The son of a great man follows in his father's footsteps. The son is good but not great. People, expecting too much, judge him too harshly. The pressure gets too much for the kid. He gets wild, goes crazy. Soon, it's too late for him to do anything but sink lower and die young. Yeah, I know that happens."

"I also know what odds I'm facing. My father was more than great. He is a legend in his own time, a hero to millions. I can hope to be his equal, but I've got to realize the chances are that I won't make it. A man like my father comes along once every 50 years, maybe once every century. To compare myself to him, especially when I'm young, would be self-destructive."

"I thought about going into another profession. Yet, whenever I considered something it was



The moment which makes a father prouder and bigger than the Statue of Liberty has finally come to Bruno Sammartino. It was with great pride he recently introduced his oldest son, Bruno Sammartino Jr., to a Pittsburgh wrestling audience. If this debut is any indication of future matches, the world may have another champ named Sammartino.



Bruno Sammartino Jr. in his first photo session as a professional wrestler (above left) moments before his debut in Pittsburgh (above right). Baron Scicluna writhes from the pain of Bruno's armlock (below). The Baron has seen two generations of Sammartinos.



always less important than wrestling. I had to realize I was destined to be a wrestler. No matter what, that's how I'll earn my livelihood.

"Let people compare me to my father. Being compared to the greatest ever is an honor in itself. I know I'll be comparing me to myself. When I do my best, I'll be happy. If I screw up—and everybody screws up—I'll be angry and sad and probably throw my boot against the wall. But I won't

be angry if I didn't wrestle as well as my father."

There's a quiet confidence in Bruno Jr.'s voice. It wasn't always there. Bruno Jr. had to find out for himself if he had what it takes to be a professional grappler. So, for several months, he toured the wrestling circuit as rookie *David Martino*. He learned a great deal about wrestling and himself.

"It's a tough life," Bruno Jr. admits. "You can never really appreciate this until you go

through it yourself. The traveling, the sore body, having to be in some town when you'd rather be soaking in a warm tub, all those are experiences you have to understand. I understand the life, now. I love it.

"I changed my name because I didn't want the spotlight on me. If I couldn't make it, I didn't want to embarrass my father. I had to be good enough to carry the name 'Sammartino' into the ring. I believe in myself now. That's why I call myself Bruno Sammartino Jr., wrestler."

Recently, under his real name, Bruno Jr. had his official pro debut. His father, concerned like any other father, wanted him to wrestle an inexperienced opponent. Instead, Bruno Jr. signed to wrestle Baron Scicluna.

"I tried every which way to talk him out of it," Bruno Sr. recalls, "but he was firm. Looking back on it now, I know he was right. I guess back then I knew he was right, too. A father really doesn't care that much about right and wrong when it might mean his son's health. I just wanted to protect him anyway I could. It's hard for a father to realize his son is on his own. As he said to me before the match, 'You can help me any time, Dad. I'm going to need your help. But you can't protect me.' I felt very proud and very sad at the same time."

Against Scicluna, Bruno Jr. made his father even prouder. The young man was strong, quick, and intelligent. Scicluna, expecting an easy victory and perhaps some revenge for past wars against the father, was shocked. He grew desperate and reckless. His illegal maneuvers became more and more blatant. Finally, after repeated warnings, the referee disqualified Scicluna.

Back in the dressing room, everyone was jubilant. There were shouts of delight, kidding around, many people screaming, "The next champion!" In a corner, too proud to say anything, Bruno Sammartino Sr. smiled so big it seemed to light up the room.

Somehow, in the mayhem, father and son got together. Bruno embraced his son so hard that the youngster almost feared for his ribs. Then, father and son shook hands solemnly. It was such a beautiful moment that everyone fell quiet. It's wonderful to see so much love in a handshake.

While the celebration continued, out in the parking lot stood Larry Zbyszko. He spoke to no one in particular when he said, "In the beginning, it's great to be compared to Bruno Sammartino. In the beginning."

Alone, Larry drove off into the night. □



Bruno Jr. receives some words of wisdom from a man who knows (above). With catlike agility, Sammartino leaps over the onrushing Scicluna (below). Bruno Jr. was an instant hit with the Pittsburgh fans (right).



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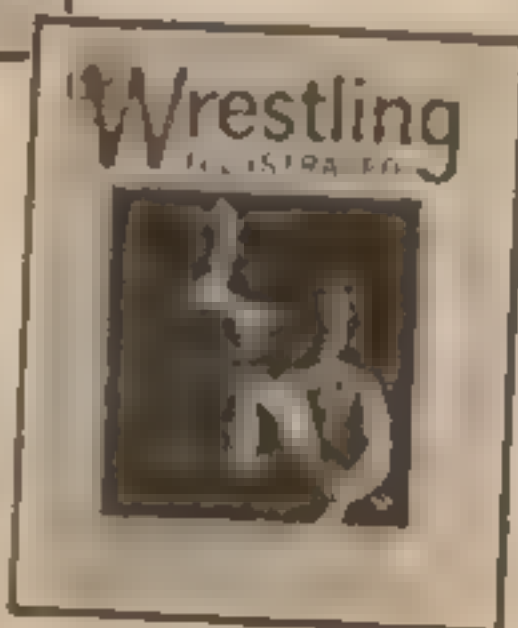


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CORRESPONDENT REPORTS

(Continued from Page 8)

took on R.T. Tyler and Nikolai
Volkoff. Tyler and Volkoff used
rulebreaking tactics until their foes
blew their tops. When the dust
cleared, Windham had toppled
Volkoff for the win.

In other matches, Bobo Brazil
defeated Bobby Jagers . . . Jerry
Brisco stopped Baron Von
Raschke . . . Scott McGhee
whipped Hans Schroeder

SAN ANTONIO, TX—Corre-
spondent: Chris Mackey—The
main event featured Wahoo
McDaniel against Tank Patton in
a Steel Cage Match. To add to the
complexity, both men wore casts

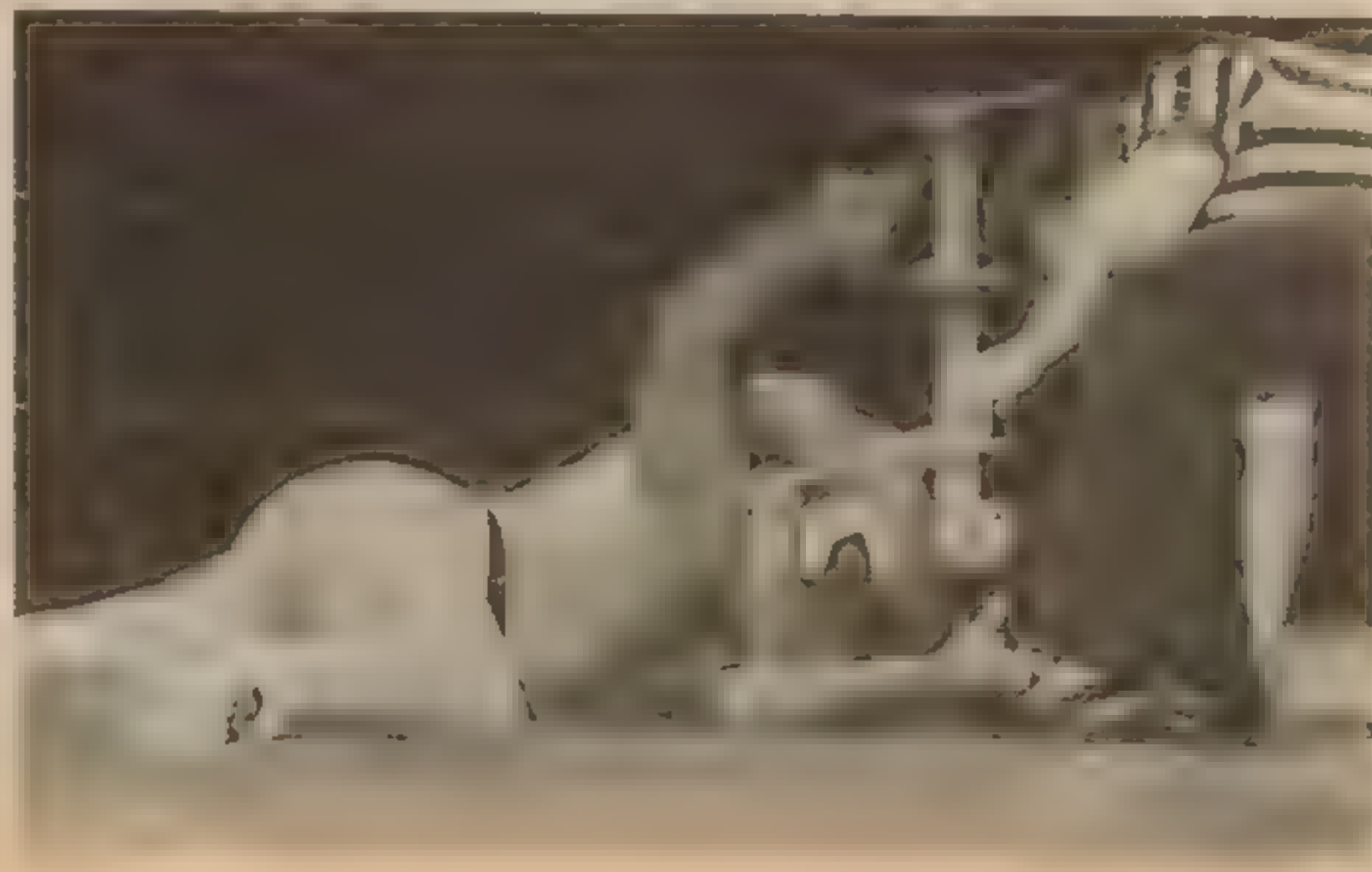
on their arms. Patton took an early
advantage by pounding Wahoo in
the chest and slamming his head
into the cage, opening a gash on
McDaniel's forehead. McDaniel
retaliated by using his cast and
bashing Patton's head into the
fence, also drawing blood. Some
eight minutes later, a bloodied
McDaniel defeated an equally
bloody Patton.

In other bouts, Ivan Putski won
by disqualification over Tully
Blanchard . . . Eddy Mansfield
topped newly crowned NWA
Junior Heavyweight champ Chavo
Guerrero in a non-title match
. . . Ricki Romero and Scott Casey
manhandled Black Gordman and
Larry Lane . . . Tom Jones
whipped Juan Reynosa.

ATLANTA, GA—Correspon-
dent: Steve Hendrix—One of the
greatest nights ever in the Atlanta
Omni took place on this cold
Friday night with every match a
main event. But the greatest
encounter occurred between Mr.
Saito and Mr. Wrestling II. Saito
had attacked II, in street clothes, at
the last Omni card because the
Japanese star felt II had cost him a
win against Bob Armstrong by



Wahoo McDaniel (above) emerged victorious over Tank Patton in a Steel Cage Match in which both contestants wore casts on their arms. Mr. Wrestling II makes his return against Mr. Saito (below) after a short retirement.



pointing out a foreign object to the referee. Saito's attack wrenched II out of retirement and he proved he was as good as ever with a dazzling victory over Saito.

In other matches, Jack Brisco lost his Georgia National heavy-weight title to the Mongolian Stomper . . . Cowboy Bill Watts whipped Ole Anderson in a grudge match with Bobo Brazil acting as special referee . . . Kevin Sullivan retained his Georgia National TV title by cheating past former champ Steve Keirn.



With Bobo Brazil serving as a special referee, Bill Watts earned a grudge match victory over Ole Anderson.

BATON ROUGE, LA—Correspondent: Myron Hebert—Jake Roberts got his well-deserved shot at the Masked Grappler's North American title. This match turned into a total brawl instigated by the Grappler's evil tactics. Roberts, normally poised, went wild and retaliated, eventually smashing Grappler on the head with his own belt. Eventually the referee had no choice but to declare a double disqualification, enabling Grappler to retain his title.

In other bouts, Paul Ellering won by disqualification over Killer Karl Kox . . . Super Destroyer beat Tommy Wright . . . Junkyard Dog and Paul Orndorff beat Leroy Brown and Ernie Ladd. ☐

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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from Page 10)

detail. Whatever I do, I do for the corporation and for the greater good. If you had a sliver of intelligence, you'd realize that."

Q: Where is Jim Brunzell and when is he planning to return to the Mid-Atlantic area?—Lee Anderson, Fayetteville, NC

A: "Right now, I'm down in Georgia trying to clean this state up," Brunzell replied. "As much as I love the Mid-Atlantic area and as much as I love the great fans there, I feel an obligation to tackle the creeps trying to drive pro wrestling into the ground down here in Georgia. I'm talking about lunatics like Dennis Condrey, The Mongolian Stomper, and The Fabulous Freebirds. You can only be in one place at one time and I feel the best place

for me right now is in Georgia."

Q: Would you ask Lou Albano who he thinks is the biggest danger in wrestling right now?—John Thompson, White Plains, NY

A: Replied Albano: "John, you sound like a man of intelligence and insight and I'm going to answer your question. I'll give you the details, the wisdom, the genius, I'll give it all to you right from my lips, my mouth, I'm the Captain and I know best. I'd have to say Arnold Skoaland is the dangerous one. He manages two piddling retards like Backlund and Sammartino, men who cheat, men who lie, who haven't an ounce of guts or brains, these are the dangerous ones, these three men, the Three Stooges though I don't know who is Larry, who is Moe, who is



Lou Albano thinks that the biggest danger to wrestling is Arnold Skoaland because he manages Bruno Sammartino and Bob Backlund, the two thorns in an otherwise brilliant career for the Captain.

Curly, it doesn't matter, I'll extinguish them all, you can bet on it, thank you very much."

Q: What does Stan Stasiak think of Bruiser Brodie?—Mike Scott, Ft. Worth, TX

A: "Think of him? Do you contemplate a fly? Do you ponder a goat? Do you care about an ant when you squash it? I don't think about someone like Bruiser Brodie. He ain't worthy of my thoughts," replied Stasiak.

Q: Has Arnold Skoaland ever wrestled Lou Albano?

Rich Kaplan, West Haven, CT

A: The two battled quite frequently before Albano



When the managers collided in combat three years ago, Arnold Skoaland defeated Lou Albano on cuts.

started his career as a manager, but none of those encounters matched the intensity of their most recent bout, January 1978 in Madison Square Garden, when the referee stopped the bloody match in Skoaland's favor. □

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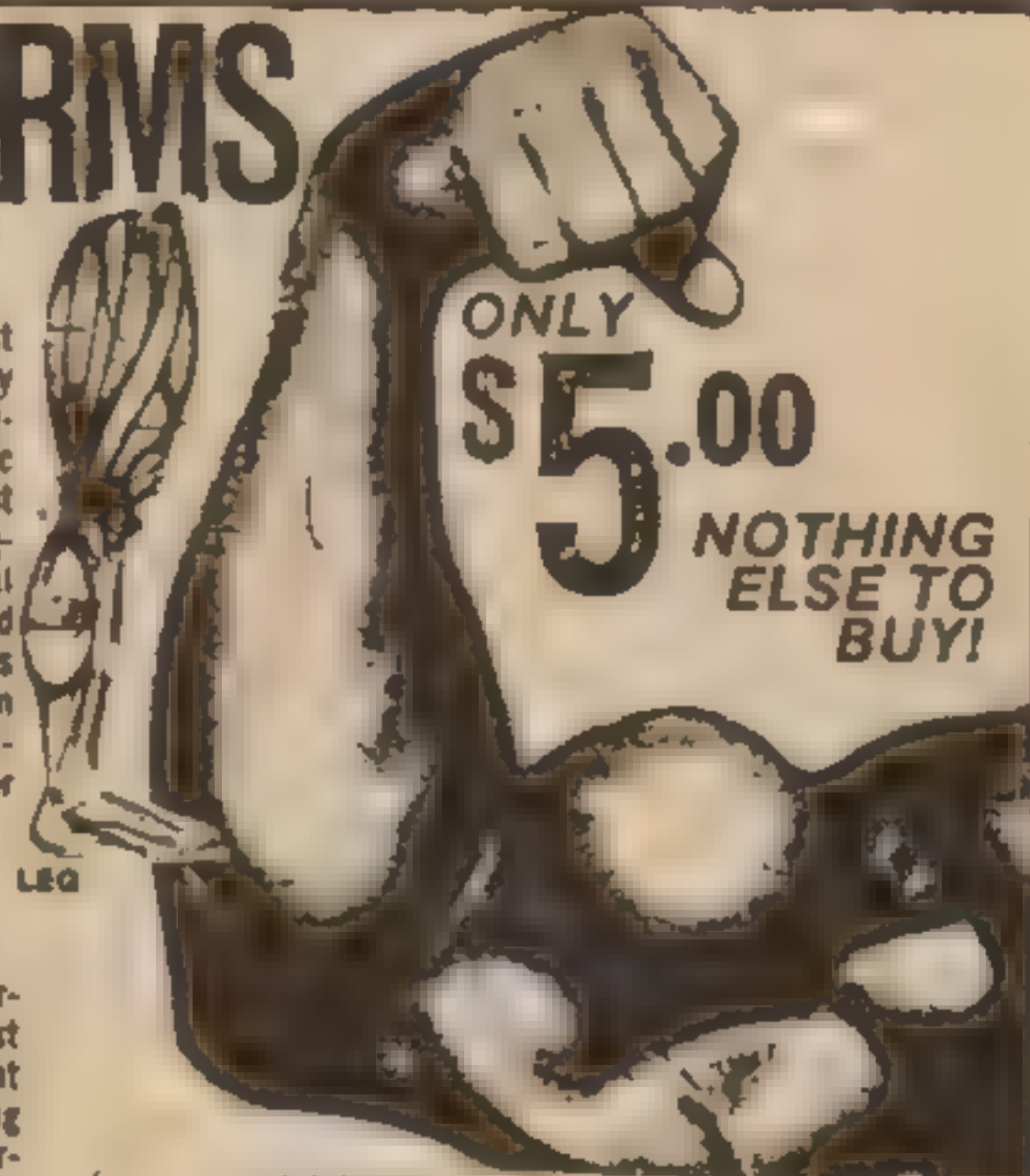
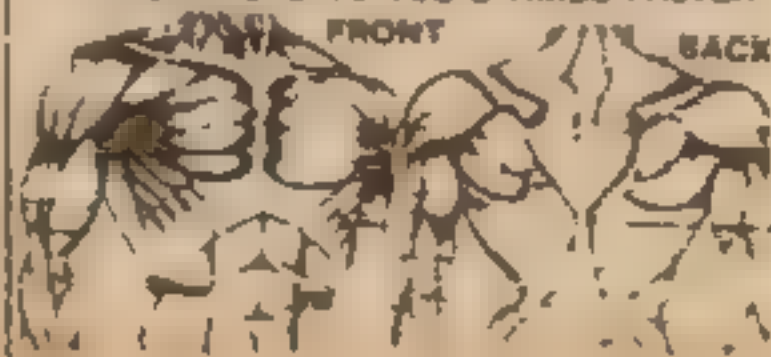
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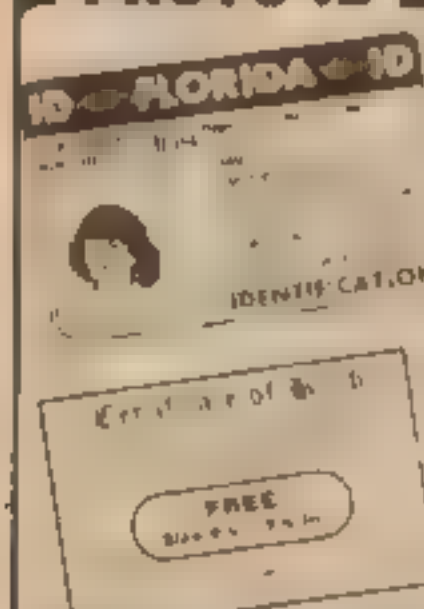
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Q & A

(Continued from Page 25)

aren't you?

A: Oh, sure, I mean, feuds are part of wrestling. Now I've wrestled arrogant, conceited clods before like Superstar Graham, but at least Graham could wrestle. Not so with either Blanchard or Mansfield. All they want to do, especially Mansfield, is blow kisses to the female fans.

Q: They still gave you a real tumble down there, right?

A: I'm not saying they aren't tough, they're just not skilled. You can take any alley fighter and put him in the ring and you're in for some kinda trouble. But once I started applying my "Polish Power," they kinda went down the tubes.

Q: Why did you come back to the WWF?

A: Because I love this area. I love the fans, I love the competition, and I love the excitement of wrestling in Madison Square Garden. There's no sensation in the world comparable to wrestling before a packed house at the Garden. Nothing ever gives me the thrills the shrieking voices of a full Garden does.

Q: Already, though, you appear embroiled in two feuds.

A: Oh, yeah, they were waiting for me.

Q: How do you feel about wrestling Hulk Hogan and Stan Hansen.

A: First of all, they're two pretty different wrestlers. To wrestle Hogan, you have to be wary of his immense size, though, on sheer size, I'm stronger for my size than Hogan is for his. But you have to avoid his overpowering leverage. I know I



Putski doesn't like men like Superstar Graham, but at least he recognizes some ability in the man.

can out-think Hogan, though a flea could probably out-think Hogan.

Q: And Hansen?

A: Hansen's a mean dude. He just lives to hurt you. Again, I know how to defeat Hansen. I'm not worried. I might not be mean, but I am pretty darn tough, and if Hansen wants to mix it up in there, he's gonna find he started something he won't be able to finish.

Q: Do you perceive any differences in the WWF since you left?

A: Well, it does seem the maniacs are running the asylum, so to speak. You seem to have more vicious wrestlers running around. But they won't last. The fans are behind me and Pedro and Bruno and Bob. We'll turn the tide, everyone can be assured of that.

Q: Ivan, any final words for your fans?

A: Just that I'm very happy to be back here, and I look forward to seeing all my loyal fans once again. □

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ERNIE LADD

(Continued from Page 31)

audience to all my subjects for the express purpose of conferring a valuable property to the fortunate person I do choose

"When a King offers to sell a piece of his kingdom, you can be assured he does so out of the kindness of his heart. Thus I have commanded my subjects to gather before me for this very great occasion. I know all my subjects are delighted to bask in the glow of greatness and partake in the sweet wine of my voice. I only wish that all my subjects could receive this gift I bestow upon one of them. However, only one subject can receive it."

The "gift" sparkled at Ladd's feet. It was the Louisiana tag team title Ladd currently holds with Leroy Brown. And Ladd planned on selling off his share of the title. Bids start at \$1 million

"Hear ye, hear ye, I, the King of Wrestling, call this meeting to order." Ladd pounded his gavel. "I have commanded my loyal subjects to sit at my feet for a great occasion. I, the King of Wrestling, Ruler of the Human Race, Master of the Milky Way Galaxy, Lord of the Universe, will offer one of my prize possessions, the share of the Louisiana tag team title, to the person willing and fortunate enough to pay me the proper price for this great title.

"I could have been greedy, but such is not the way, as it should not be the way of a great and wise man. As King, I have all the riches I could ever need or want. All I must do is wave my hand and every luxury befitting my station is given to me.

"So the money is of little consequence to me. I am sure I will



Ladd digs his powerful hands into Watts' neck muscles. For some reason, Ladd assumed he would have no problem auctioning his belt for over \$1 million. But then Ladd also thinks he's the King of the Universe

use it for a charitable purpose, like building myself a great palace that all my subjects could take great pride in.

"Perhaps I will use the money to build myself a gold-plated carriage. Or perhaps a spaceship so that I might travel to the other planets in the Universe, spreading the message of my greatness to all beings.

"Thus I will begin the bidding. Remember that you are not to speak until spoken to, lest you incur my wrath and I am forced to destroy you. I hate to destroy my subjects."

It became apparent to all assembled that Ladd was quite serious about wanting to sell off his share of the title, a move which had never been approved by the NWA. There was silence in the room. Nobody could believe what was happening.

"Let's start the bidding," Ladd said, "but keep in mind that I will settle for no less than a million dollars.

No one dared flinch for fear of giving the appearance of having rendered a bid.

"C'mon," an irritated Ladd demanded. "I said you can start the bidding now."

Masked Grappler stood. "Ah," Ladd said, "I see Masked Grappler has opened the bidding at \$1 million.

"No way, Ladd," he said, "I'm getting up to leave. This is absurd."

Grappler was followed out of the room by the remainder of the wrestlers. Ladd summoned them to stop but nobody paid any attention.

Leroy Brown punched the wall in the corridor outside the room. "You think you know a man, and then something like this happens," he murmured. "What he's trying to do is beneath contempt. If he sells the belt, he's selling me down the river. And if he does that, I'll come looking for him. He won't get away with that." □

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DOS CARAS

(Continued from Page 33)

Before he could make the fans think of Dos Caras as anything but Mil Mascaras' brother, he had to climb into the ring against a man with the reputation as one of the sport's most vicious rulebreakers. The Enforcer was the perfect opponent. Dos Caras should never have an identity problem again.

inevitable comparisons. After all, Mil and I both wear masks. So that starts some confusion in people right away.

"Also, Mil and I both like to treat our opponents with grace. We do not believe in the sort of cheating other lesser talents indulge in. We believe in the principles of sportsmanship and fair play.

"And, of course, we both love our fans. We would never refuse a request from a fan. They are very, very important to us. A fan is always welcome in our homes. We think the fans are the most important things in professional

wrestling and any wrestler who does not show his gratitude to the fans is a fool."

Dos Caras fidgeted with his mask.

"So we start out with certain similarities, you know, that is the way it is. We are brothers so we should have similar tastes and outlooks. And we both love many of the people in wrestling. I would not ever turn my back on those principles.

"So I sat down and tried to see what I could do for Dos Caras, you understand. I would have talked to Mil, but, as much as I idolize him, I wanted to figure this out

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by myself.

"I sat down and wrote all my strengths and weaknesses. As for the weaknesses, I tried to correct many of them through very long work. I do not think anyone can be perfect, but you might as well strive for perfection. That is my goal and an admirable one, I think.

"But I wanted my style to be more my own. I wanted people to see me wrestle and say, yes, that is a style no one else has. I know it will take some time to gain acceptance of my style and it will take hard work, some of it painful, for many will not easily accept me in my own right.

"But it was something I had to do. I love my brother very, very much but I must, for my own sanity, for my own sake, for my own dignity, be recognized as Dos Caras."

Again Dos played nervously with the rim of his mask.

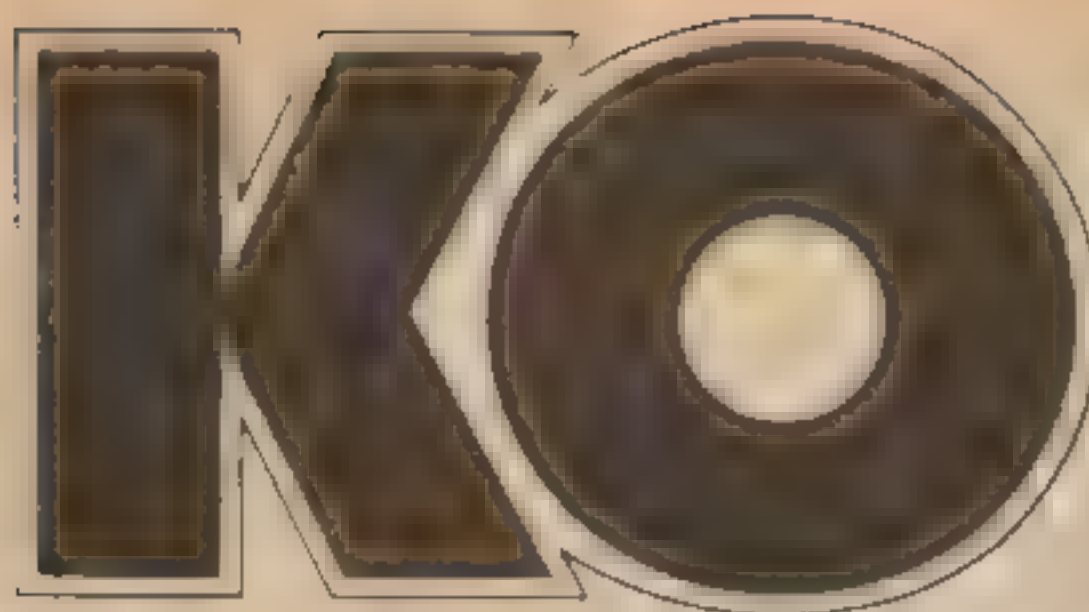
"So I decided to focus very much on flying maneuvers. Both Mil and I use the flying bodypress, and I think Mil's use of that maneuver is the greatest in all the history of professional wrestling. I would not ignore that maneuver, but I wanted to add on some more of my own maneuvers."

With each match, with each new unveiling of yet another brilliant variation of an aerial maneuver, Dos' reputation increased.

"Yes, there is great satisfaction in all this," said Dos. "I feel I am finally reaching the pinnacle of my own success and it makes me very happy."

Nothing illustrates Dos' acceptance among pro wrestling fans like the arena reaction to his entrance into the ring prior to a match against The Enforcer. As Dos walked down the aisle, waving and smiling, he could hear the whispers.

"Isn't that Dos Caras . . . That's Dos Caras, right? . . . He's great . . . Wonderful wrestler . . . That other masked guy, isn't he Dos Caras' brother?" ☐



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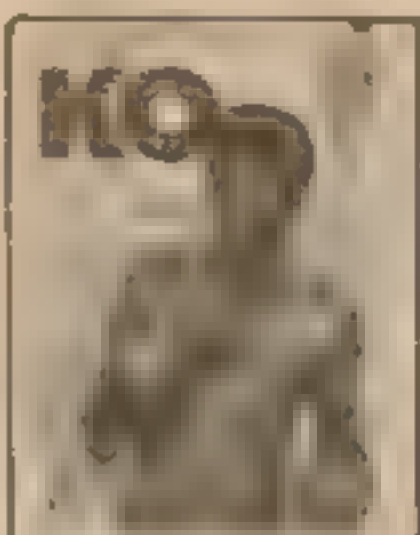
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BUGSY McGRAW

(Continued from Page 41)

unselfishly. I always wanted to do that, but no one wanted to trust me."

McGraw stared at the ceiling, his full lips pursed in inner contemplation.

And then what happens? Finally I think I am accepted as a member of the human race, a full-fledged, dues-paying member of the human race and I think anywhere I go, anywhere in the country, anywhere in the world, on any planet, in any star system, I will be trusted. I thought the name Buggy McGraw would become synonymous with trust and respect. I thought all would know how I have given of myself for my country, placed my life on the line for good old Uncle Sam. And see what happens? See? I go to Texas, to meet a man named Mark Lewin. I come full of hope, of life, of beauty, of devotion, and they boo me."

Again McGraw raced to his wall, this time bashing his skull into the concrete. He returned, eyes glazed, and stared at his visitor.

"I wanted to be loved. I wanted all the world to understand what kind of man Buggy McGraw has become. All I ever wanted was to go anywhere, to walk into a restaurant, have the waitress seat me, have people talk nicely to me. Why can't everyone love me? Why must they always think, just because I am a little different, a little strange, that I cannot be trusted?"

"Isn't the beauty of the human race all the differences among all of us? Are any two people alike? Do any two people see the same thing exactly the same way? Is your orange my orange? Is my blue your blue? Could you grow a beard just like mine or could I drive a car just like you?"

"No, I cannot. I cannot and I will not be treated like this. I am deeply



Buggy thought that he would gain the favor of the Texas fans if he soundly defeated Mark Lewin with "The Maniac's" own tactics. It didn't matter how he wrestled, though. The Texas fans do not like Buggy McGraw.

saddened by the treatment I received in Texas. I don't know why I must be treated like this. I have never meant to hurt anyone. I donate my time for charity. I would do anything for my fans, anything for my sport, anything for my country.

"So please, tell me why the Texas fans don't love me. Why don't they love me? Why must they always hurt me, me, Buggy McGraw a nice man, a decent man, a gentle man. Why? Why? Why?"

A question asked by many others throughout the course of human history. McGraw doesn't seem to understand he is cursed with the disease of individuality. Eventually, he must learn to live with it.

Or, perish in the process. ☐

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from Page 12)

in America," said Fujinami, "but enjoyable nonetheless." Diamond praised Tatsumi, but goes on to say, "I want to wrestle him again in Japan and bring the title back to America."

Manny Fernandez has returned to Florida after a long absence and has been teaming regularly with Mike Graham. Their mission—to win the state tag team title from Bobby Jagers and R.T. Tyler... Ted DiBiase is telling everyone that although he is a close friend of Georgia champion Tony Atlas, he really wants to wrestle Tony for the title. Tony says he ducks nobody and would be glad to wrestle Ted if promoters can sign the bout.

Speaking about the Georgia belt, The Freebirds, holders of the state tag team title, now want to hold the Georgia single belt. "One of us three would wrestle and beat Atlas," explains Buddy Roberts. "When that person beats Atlas, whether it be me, Terry Gordy, or Michael Hayes, we will share the title. Remember, we are a corporation. What one wins, the other two generously share in."

The Samoans have left the WWF and are headed to Japan... The Moondogs, Captain Lou Albano's newest nuts, are still trying to unseat Tony Garea and Rick Martel from the WWF tag team seat... Bobby Duncum required 15 stitches in his head after his most recent brass knucks battle against Blackjack Mulligan.

Don Carson is now managing the vicious Mongolian Stomper in Georgia... The terror of Bull Ramos is evident in Texas again. The huge Ramos is stomping all competition put in front of him... Gary Hart's newest right hand man, Gary Young, boasts that he will take the Texas title from David Von Erich in less than 10 minutes the next time they meet.

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Champion Ric Flair saves his title by disqualification all the time!" cries Ivan Koloff's manager Gene Anderson. Yes, Flair has been disqualified several times against Koloff, but it is not his fault. He's usually penalized for going out of the ring and beating up Anderson because the manager tries to stop his interference. It doesn't seem fair, does it?

It's time to clear up something that many fans have been asking about. "Why," writes Linda Iacouelli, of New York, "does a Texas Death Match not look like a Texas Death Match in New York? For example, in a recent 'Texas Death Match' at Madison Square Garden, Tony Atlas wrestled Ernie Ladd. Everytime the two were on the ropes, they were told by referee Dick Kroll to break. Also clenched fists were warned to open up. I thought a Texas Death Match meant anything goes. What gives?" Well, Linda, we spoke to referee Dick Kroll and here is the explanation:

"Death Match rules vary from state to state. For example, in Texas, a guy can be pinned 20 times; falls don't count. The only way one can win is when the referee feels that an opponent cannot continue or when the opponent quits. He cannot win by pinfall.

"In New York City, Death Match rules are this. Normal rules exist. No punching with a clenched fist and you must break on the ropes, etc. However, the match can only end if a wrestler submits or is pinned. The referee cannot stop the match because of blood or injury. It is up to the wrestler. Different rules in different states."

Why does the referee count out illegal holds if there are no disqualifications?

Replied Kroll: "The wrestler cannot be disqualified, but each time the count goes over four, the man can be fined. I hope this clears the matter up."

And that's what's happening. See you next time! ☐

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Ric Flair

(Continued from Page 35)



Flair has said privately that the only reason he pokes fun at Piper's garb is to anger him, thus throwing him off his game. When such battlers get into the ring, any advantage is needed. Above: Flair crushes Piper to the mat with a cross-body block. Opposite right: Ric grabs a handful of Piper's hair and yanks him across the ring.

he shows every time he opens his stupid, ugly mouth. Tell Flair if he has the slightest bit of guts he'll shut his lousy twit mouth and meet me in the ring, where I'll show him who's a real wrestler."

Though Flair sounded hesitant at first, he soon demanded the match.

"Why should I wrestle Piper? Here's a guy who's attacked everything decent in the Mid-Atlantic area. He has no decency, he couldn't wrestle by the rules if his life depended on it, and he has the nerve to call me names? No one

asked Piper to come to this area. Yet he comes in here, insults these great fans, cheats, lies, and calls people names. Am I supposed to stand here and take it? No, Ric Flair doesn't take garbage from garbage. Sure, tell Piper if he wants to fight, I'll fight him. But tell him not to wear that stupid dress, what does he call it, a kite?" When informed that Piper's garment is called a kilt, Flair pretended not to hear. "Tell him to leave his kite home," he persisted.

Since Flair hates Piper and his arrogant attitude so much, it was

amazing how the talented blond kept himself reasonably calm. Despite Piper's repeated taunts, Flair just strutted about the ring, bathing in his fans' cheers.

Finally, their bout exploded. Piper attacked Flair, driving home merciless blow after merciless blow. Flair retreated wisely, dodging the barrage, waiting for his moment, waiting to implement a strategy and post-match analysis could only describe as brilliant.

Flair maneuvered Piper into a corner, though seemingly Flair was on the other end of the blows. Then



Flair went wild, unleashing everything in his skilled arsenal.

"Yeah, I enjoyed beating Piper. I get really sick and tired of guys shooting off their mouths. When are they going to learn that it's how you behave in the ring, how you treat your foes and you treat your fans that counts.

"Piper isn't much of a talent, that's for sure. Heck, anyone who saw him whine and run around tonight realizes that. Piper should stick to flying his kites and let that be the end of this."

But Piper isn't ready to end the feud.

"No man alive insults my heritage and lives to brag about it," he growled. ☐

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